

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 02750 021006Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00
/074 W

-----106617 021011Z /10/15

O P 310803Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3046
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DARESSLAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 2750

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 5 CORRECTED)

NAIROBI FOR MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA, RH
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE FRONTLINE MEETING WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 2-3

REF: (A) USUN 3351; (B) GABORONE 2732

1. JOE LEGWAILA, SENIOR PRIVATE SECRETARY (POLITICAL) TO
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PRESIDENT KHAMA CONFIRMED IN COURSE OF BRIEF TOUR D'HORIZON
THAT PLANS WERE BEING MADE FOR A POSSIBLE FRONTLINE SUMMIT
IN LUSAKA THIS COMING WEEKEND, PROBABLY SEPTEMBER 2-3. IN
RESPONSE TO MY QUERIES, LEGWAILA SAID SUMMIT WAS NOT BEING
CALLED AS A RESULT OF EVENTS ON ZAMBIAN/SOUTH AFRICAN BORDER
INVOLVING SWAPO, NOR WAS IT (ON BASIS OF INFORMATION
LEGWAILA HAD SEEN) BECAUSE OF GENERAL DISCOURAGEMENT

REGARDING PROSPECTS OF AN ALL PARTIES MEETING ON ZIMBABWE. RATHER, HE UNDERSTOOD THAT IT WAS BEING SCHEDULED AS AN OCCASION TO COORDINATE AND UPDATE INFORMATION CONCERNING BOTH ISSUES.

2. LEGWAILA COMMENTED THAT HE BELIEVED FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS WOULD BE UNANIMOUS IN REPROACHING SWAPO FOR INITIATING ATTACK AGAINST SOUTH AFRICAN FROCES AT KATIMA MULIRO. HE HAD HEARD THAT PRESIDENT KAUNDA WAS "FURIOUS" AT THE SWAPO ACTION. LEGWAILA SAID SOUTH AFRICAN REACTION HAD BEEN "MILD" GIVEN THE FACT OF TEN DEAD AMONG SADF. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERIES AS TO WHETHER GOB HAD ANY INDICATIONS THAT SWAPO MIGHT BE USING THE BORDER CLASHES AS EXCUSE TO ALTER THEIR POSITION ON CG PROPOSAL BY NAMIBIA, LEGWAILA REPLIED THAT FRONTLINE WOULD NOT ALLOW NUJOMA AND SWAPO TO BACK OUT OF THEIR AGREEMENT.

3. CONFIRMING INDICATIONS REFTEL, LEGWAILA SAID GOB WOULD BE "VERY THIN ON THE GROUND" AND MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO SEND ANYONE TO ATTEND UNSC MEETING IN NEW YORK THIS WEEKEND DUE TO: (A) POSSIBILE SUMMIT IN LUSAKA, (B) PRESIDENT KHAMA'S ABSENCE ALONG WITH INFORMATION MINISTER KWELAGOBE, AND OTHERS TO ATTEND SWAZILAND'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS SEPTEMBER 4-6 AND, (C) MINISTER MOGWE'S CONTINUING ABSENCE,
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PRESENTLY IN LIBYA FOR SEPTEMBER 1 LIBYAN INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION. LEGWAILA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT UNSC MEETING WOULD HAVE PRIORITY AND THAT HE MIGHT BE DISPATCHED TO NEW YORK.

4. I INFORMED LEGWAILA OF RUMOR FROM US PRESS REP THAT SMITH WOULD SOON ANNOUNCE WILLINGNESS TO ATTEND ALL PARTIES MEETING THIS WEEKEND. LEGWAILA SAID HE HAD NOT HEARD SUCH A RUMOR BUT FERVENTLY HOPED IT WAS TRUE SINCE, IN HIS OPINION, SMITH COULD "BRING ALONG" OTHERS INVOLVED IN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT.

5. COMMENT: LEGWAILA CLEARLY INDICATED THAT, WHILE THE IDEA IS PRESENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION, NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN MADE TO HOLD A FRONTLINE SUMMIT IN LUSAKA THIS WEEKEND. IT WAS EQUALLY CLEAR THAT INITIATIVE FOR SUCH A MEETING WAS COMING FROM EITHER KAUNDA OR NYERERE AND THAT PRESIDENT KHAMA IS SIMPLY ON "STAND BY" AWAITING DECISION WHICH IS EXPECTED AUGUST 31.
ALBERTI

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Message Attributes

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